



INFORMATION / COMMUNIQUÉ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2001

5 CANADIAN MAYORS TO BRAINSTORM WITH RENOWNED URBAN PHILOSOPHER JANE JACOBS IN WINNIPEG

SESSIONS TO TACKLE COMPLEX URBAN ISSUES

Winnipeg - The mayors of five of Canada's largest cities are meeting in Winnipeg with Jane Jacobs, renowned and authoritative thinker on urban life and economies. Hosted jointly by Jacobs and Winnipeg's Mayor Glen Murray, the gathering aims to provide a forum for the mayors to discuss common challenges and possible opportunities for collaboration. Those participating will be Calgary Mayor Al Duerr, Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen, Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque, and Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman, as well as Winnipeg's Mayor Glen Murray. Up to four delegates representing a cross section of their city's interests will accompany each mayor. The maximum number of participants will be 25.

Journalists are invited to attend the event, which will take place at the Fort Garry Hotel on May 24th and 25th. (See page 2 for key details). Journalists are welcome to attend the *Opening Session* on Thursday from 20:00 to 21:30. Mayor Murray will introduce Jane Jacobs, who will deliver the opening address outlining the challenges facing Canadian cities, followed by a brief speech from each mayor. The remainder of the sessions will be closed to Media and the public. A final news conference will be held for the media on Friday at 15:00, followed by a question and answer session.

The aim of this meeting is for delegates to share experiences with a strong focus on discussing potential solutions. "Cities are taking responsibility for the challenges they face and have the solutions to reverse the decline. What they need is the ability and the revenue," said C5 co-host Mayor Glen Murray. "Canada's urban areas, where 80% of the Canadian population now live, drive the national economy. Preserving the wealth creation capacity of these areas is critical to the future of Canada. This meeting is a launching pad, the first step in what I hope will lead to a national discussion, bringing representatives of five of these urban centres together to initiate a dialogue.

Jane Jacobs sees this gathering as an opportunity to consider the future of Canadian cities in a new and unencumbered way. "Current governance arrangements reflect an agrarian-based economy of 100 years ago. Metropolitan urban areas and city-regions drive today's economy. Canadians have a wonderful opportunity to rethink the governance of their cities and C5 is a

starting point, a first step in what will hopefully be a comprehensive and serious look at urban Canada,” said Jacobs.

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C5 – SESSIONS OPEN TO JOURNALISTS

**FORT GARRY HOTEL
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

Thursday, May 24th
20:00-21:30

Opening Session (can be recorded)
Pool sound feed will be provided

Friday, May 25th
15:00

Final News Conference
Pool sound feed will be provided

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